

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 MCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5466
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2900

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, NATO, PO
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES FORCES MODERNIZATION

REF: STATE 096492

1. THE THRUST OF REFTEL, ESPECIALLY THE SUCCINCT SUMMARY
OF CURRENT SITUATION AND CALL TO ACTION IS WELCOME. SUBJECT
PROGRAM THUS FAR HAS BEEN A SUCCESS, BUT LOSS OF MOMENTUM
NOW WOULD BE SERIOUS.

2. THE EMPHASIS IN REFTEL CENTERS ON AIR FORCE REQUIREMENTS.
WE SHARE THE SENTIMENT FOR THE NEED OF MODERN FIGHTER
AIRCRAFT ONCE AIR TRANSPORTATION DEMANDS OF THE BRIGADE
HAVE BEEN MET BY THE PROVISION OF THE SIX C-130'S (THE FIRST
FIVE WILL BE ON HAND BY THE END OF JUNE.)

3. MODERN FIGHTER ACQUISITION CAN BE AS COMPLICATED AS IT
IS COSTLY. ALTERNATIVES SOUGHT IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 OF
REFTEL SHOULD CONSIDER SUCH VEXING QUESTIONS AS:

(A) HOW MANY FLYING HOURS REMAIN ON OLDER AIRFRAMES

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TO BE GRANTED BY ALLIES?

(B) ARE SUFFICIENT REPAIR PARTS AS WELL AS OPERATIONS
AND MAINTENANCE EXPERTISE AVAILABLE?

(C) HOW CAN TRAINING AND OTHER SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS
BE MET?

4. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE POINTS, WE MUST ALSO BEAR

IN MIND THAT THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF HAS FREQUENTLY AND LOUDLY, PROTESTED ALLIANCE PROPOSALS FOR GRANTS OF USED EQUIPMENT WHICH, IN HIS TERMS, SEEK TO MAKE A "JUNK YARD" OF PORTUGAL. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A MIX OF NEW/USED AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE. BUT IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN.

5. ASIDE FROM OUR OBVIOUS PARTICIPATION IF GRANTED AIRCRAFT ARE OF U.S. ORIGIN, EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD AVOID THE ROLE OF MIDDLE MAN OR BROKER, ESPECIALLY IF OLDER AIRCRAFT ARE INVOLVED.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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